

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed March 1, 2005 and Advisory Action of June 23, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully noted. Filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for One Month Extension of Time*, which extends the shortened statutory period for response to July 1, 2005. Also, filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for Continued Examination*. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

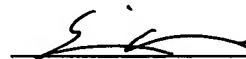
The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on December 8, 2003, and January 21, 2005.

Claims 6-16 are pending in the present application, of which claims 6 and 12 are independent. Applicant notes with appreciation the indication in the *Advisory Action* that the obviousness rejection of claims 6-16 has been overcome, leaving only the obviousness-type double patenting rejection pending in the subject application. New claims 17-22 are added to recite additional protection and more clearly define certain aspect of the present invention. These claims are believed to be allowable for the same reasons previously stressed and all claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 6-9 and 12-15 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 13, 14 and 16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,693,696 to Konuma. The Applicant respectfully requests that the double patenting rejections continue to be held in abeyance until an indication of allowable subject matter is made in the present application. At such time, the Applicant will respond to any remaining double patenting rejections. Also, in any event, it is respectfully submitted that claims 6-22 of the present application do merely constitute an obvious variation of the claims on the '696 patent. Favorable reconsideration of the double-patenting rejection in view thereof is requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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